In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application:

Claims 1 - 31 (canceled)

Claims 32 - 43 (canceled)

Claims 44 – 52 (cancelled)

53. (Currently amended) A[[n]] method for treating osteoporosis in a mammal, comprising:

administering to a patient in need of treatment for osteoporosis an effervescent solution having a buffered pH of about 3 to about 6.5 which has buffering capacity sufficient to mediate the patient's stomach pH for 15 minutes or more, containing

(a) an effective amount of alendronate ~~a bisphosphonate,~~

(b) an acid component selected from the group consisting of citric acid and monosodium citrate,

(c) an alkaline component selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal bicarbonate, an alkali metal carbonate and mixtures thereof,

wherein said solution was obtained from a solid composition having a total weight of 3500 mg to about 6000 mg, and

(d) an anti-ulcer agent, ~~and~~

~~(e) a solubilizing agent~~.

54. (cancelled)

55. (previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein the acid component is about 45% by weight of the solid composition.

56. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 53, wherein the solid composition is in the form of a tablet.

57. (previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein the solid composition contains a sweetener.

58. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 53, wherein the solid composition contains a solublizing agent [[is]] selected from the group consisting of a polyvinylpyrrolidone, a polyethylene glycol, a dextran
and mixtures thereof.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Cancelled)

61. (previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein the anti-ulcer agent is a proton pump inhibitor.

62. (previously presented) The method of Claim 61, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of omeprazole, pantoprazole, lansoprasole, rabeprazole, and combinations thereof.

63. (previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein the anti-ulcer agent is an H_2-antagonist.

64. (previously presented) The method of Claim 63, wherein the H_2-antagonist is selected from the group consisting of ranitidine, cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine, and combinations thereof.